

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 02878 141658 Z

67

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NIC-01 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /135 W

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R 141558 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9890

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2878

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS AR GW BL

SUBJ: TWO ELN LEADERS KILLED BY POLICE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AT ABOUT 11 P. M. MAY 12 TWO ELN GUERRILLA LEADERS WERE KILLED AND TWO POLICEMEN WOUNDED, ONE CRITICALLY, IN A RAID ON AN ELN SAFEHOUSE IN LA PAZ. KILLED WERE MONICA HERLT AND OSVALDO UCASQUI. POLICE FOUND ELN LITERATURE, PROPAGANDA MATERIALS, ARMS AND MONEY IN THE HOUSE.

2. IN A ONE A. M. MAY 13 PRESS CONFERENCE MININTERIOR ARCE AND MIN-INFORMATIN CABALLERO IDENTIFIED MONICA HERLT TO REPORTS AS THE ELN FIGURE WANTED FOR THE APRIL 1971 MURDER OF BOLIVIAN CONSUL ROBERTO QUINTANILLA IN HAMBURG. ARCE IDENTIFIED UCASQUI AS AN ARGENTINE CITIZEN, AS NUMBER THREE MAN IN THE ELN HIERARCHY, AND THE AUTHOR OF THE OCTOBER 1970 MURDER IN LA PAZ OF TWO ELN MEMBERS WHOSE LOYALTY WAS SUSPECT. ARCE SAID AN ADDITIONAL ELN MEMBER ESCAPED FROM THE SAFEHOUSE IN THE ACTION AND PREDICTED HIS CAPTURE.

3. ARCE TOLD REPORTERS THAT HERLT AND UCASQUI HAD COME TO LA PAZ
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ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO TO REORGANIZE THE ELN IN BOLIVIA. ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS THIS IS THE FIRST CLASH BETWEEN ELN MEMBERS AND THE AUTHORITIES IN OVER A YEAR (LA PAZ 2701, MAY 17, 1972) END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT TWO SUCH IMPORTANT ELN FIGURES RISKED RETURNING TO BOLIVIA GIVE CREDENCE TO ARCE' S STATEMENT THAT THEY WERE HERE TO REORGANIZE THE ELN, WHICH HAS BEEN QUIETLY REGROUPING ITS FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE COCHABAMBA AREA, BUT HAS BEEN INOPERATIVE FOR THE BETTER PART OF A YEAR FOLLOWING LAST YEAR' S WIDESPREAD ARRESTS AND RAIDS CONDUCTED BY THE GOB. END CONFIDENTIAL.
SIRACUSA

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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